

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A filter material adapted for the passage therethrough of a fluid to remove a pollutant from the fluid as the fluid passes through said filter material, said filter material comprising _____ a sheet-like matrix in which is incorporated a material comprising a base formed substantially of cellulose fibers onto which is adsorbed a composition comprising one or more aliphatic carboxylic acids having hydrocarbon chains consisting of 8 to 20 carbon atoms.

19. (previously presented) A filter material as claimed in claim 18, wherein the one or more aliphatic carboxylic acids have hydrocarbon chains consisting of 10 to 18 carbon atoms.

20. (currently amended) A filter material as claimed in claim 18, wherein the one or more carboxylic acids are selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of stearic acid, [[and]] palmitic acid and mixtures thereof.

21. (previously presented) A filter material as claimed in claim 18, wherein the matrix comprises a non-woven fibrous material.

22. (previously presented) A filter material as claimed in claim 18, wherein the matrix comprises an open-cell foam material.

23. (previously presented) A filter material as claimed in claim 18, wherein the matrix comprises a cotton or viscose gauze.

24-29. (Canceled)

30. (previously presented) The filter material of claim 18 wherein the matrix, prior to incorporation therein of said material comprising a base formed substantially of cellulose fibers, has a density no greater than 0.25 gcm^{-3} .

31. (previously presented) The filter material of claim 30 wherein said density is 0.01 to 0.18 gcm^{-3} .

32. (previously presented) The filter material of claim 31 wherein said matrix has a thickness of about 3 mm to about 4 mm.

33. (previously presented) The filter material of claim 18 wherein said cellulose fibers, by virtue of said one

Appln. No. 09/202,500
Amd. dated October 16, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 16, 2003

or more aliphatic carboxylic acids being adsorbed thereon,
comprise hydrophobic hydrocarbon chains projecting therefrom.

34. (canceled)